

Posting Language: Approve a resolution directing the City Manager to remove public parkland as a possible location for a Major League Soccer Stadium and continue the community engagement component of analysis for all other potential sites.

Sponsor: Kitchen

Cosponsors: Pool, Alter, Flannigan

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution 20171109-046 directed the City Manager to analyze and identify City-owned sites that might be appropriate for a soccer stadium as well as practice fields and ancillary uses to serve a Major League Soccer (MLS) team and the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the analysis was to include traffic and other potential impacts to properties adjacent to identified sites, impacts to City programs or services as a result of conversion of use, as well as potential community and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the scope of potential sites was expanded to include the Travis County Exposition site, area colleges and universities, Central Health, Austin Independent School District and other potential stakeholders properties; and

WHEREAS, the deadline for the report was extended from December 14th, 2017 to report back early 2018 providing staff additional time to pursue a wider field of optional sites for consideration; and

WHEREAS, there has been significant response from the community expressing concern for the Butler Shores Park location as a potential site for a MLS stadium and the preliminary staff report supports the expressed concerns citing:

- traffic challenges due to location on a narrow side street with limited access;
- addition of a stadium in close proximity to residences, nature, and Zilker Park add to an already existing heavy events schedule in an area that will further disrupt the perceived/actual peace and comfort of neighborhoods;
- “undue burden” on the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail along Barton Creek and Lady Bird Lake;
- displacement of longstanding (begun in 1950) youth sports activities at the ball fields;
- undoing of existing planning efforts for relocation of the Daugherty Arts Center to the Butler Shores location; and

WHEREAS, Butler Shores Park area is next door to Zilker Park which already hosts a number of regular events that area neighborhoods accommodate; and

WHEREAS, our city park system and properties are of extreme value and finite, currently providing critical access to nature and the outdoors for our growing population; and

WHEREAS, an MLS team has publicly indicated a preference for two public park land locations and a third preference for a site on McKalla Lane; and

WHEREAS, McKalla Place, at Burnet Road and Braker Lane in North Austin, is easily accessible from MoPac, is one mile from the Kramer rail station, and is located near the Domain, often referred to as Austin’s “second Downtown”; and

WHEREAS, of the sites identified by staff, McKalla appears to hold promise in terms of location and accessibility, and is worth a deeper examination by staff and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, other parts of the city would benefit and should be provided the opportunity to host an MLS stadium to reap those benefits to the surrounding community; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to remove the city park land (Butler Shores and Guerrero Park) as possible locations for a MLS stadium.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide more in-depth analysis for the McKalla Lane property, including legal review to determine the appropriate course of action if this site were to be part of final consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to continue the community engagement component of analysis for McKalla Lane and all other potential MLS sites.

ADOPTED: _____, 2018

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk